

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 SAM-01 DPW-01

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IGA-01

/091 W

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R 070947Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0907

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 0734

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS SAIGON 15187

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VN, VS

SUBJECT: "PRG" PRESS SPOKESMAN SEEMS TO RATIONALIZE HEAVIER
FIGHTING

DEPARTMENT PASS IBS/NCA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. USUAL SATURDAY PRESS BRIEFING DECEMBER 7 OPENED WITH
LENGTH RECITAL OF ALLEGED GVN MILITARY INITIATIVES THROUGHOUT
SOUTH VIETNAM, ESPECIALLY "RICE-LOOTING OPERATIONS". SPOKESMAN
ACCUSED PRESIDENT THIEU OF SENDING NEW TROOPS INTO BATTLE AND
STEPPING UP ARTILLERY AND AIR ATTACKS. BRIEFER CITED RECENT
VISIT BY "LOGISTICS MISSION OF US WAR DEPARTMENT", VISITS TO
PROVINCES BY US EMBASSY AND AID PERSONNEL, AND ALLEGED US
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PRESSURES FOR INCREASED TAX COLLECTIONS AS EVIDENCE OF

CONTINUED US INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM. BRIEFER CONCLUDES THAT, AS "PRG" OCTOBER 8 STATEMENT SAID, WAS NECESSARY TO END US INVOLVEMENT IN VN AND DRIVE OUT "THIEU AND HIS CLIQUE" SO THAT PARIS AGREEMENT COULD BE IMPLEMENTED AND ASPIRATIONS OF VIETNAMESE PEOPLE FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY, NATIONAL CONCORD AND BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS COULD BE REALIZED.

2. IN RESPONSE TO VARIOUS QUESTIONS AS TO PROBABLE FUTURE LEVEL OF FIGHTING, SPOKESMAN CONTENTED HIMSELF WITH SAYING HE COULD NOT MAKE A GUESS BUT COULD SAY THAT "LIBERATION ARMED FORCES" WERE DETERMINED TO "PUNISH" LAND-GRABBING, PACIFICATIONS,, CROP DESTRUCTION AND RICE-LOOTING BY GVN, AND TO WIN BACK TERRITORY TAKEN BY GVN SINCE CEASE-FIRE THROUGH "NIBBLING ATTACKS". AS EXAMPLES HE CITED SOME AREAS TAKEN BY NVA IN ITS 1972 OFFENSIVE. SPOKESMAN ALSO AGREED WITH A QUESTIONER THAT LEVEL OF FIGHTING HAD RECENTLY INCREASED.
LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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